

## COA Meeting Notes

January 11, 2023

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Dona Son, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Phil Cieply arrived at 10:10am. Also present: Betsy Edsall, Friends' Vice President, and Alejna Brugos, Select Board/COA liaison.

The meeting was being videotaped, so we introduced ourselves with our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a verbal Director's report: the first edition of the Upton and Mendon Newsletter which replaces The Crier is out; upcoming programs: April 12, Eleanor Roosevelt portrayer and May 17 Volunteer Appreciation with magician, Scott Martell; regarding the town's electric car, Town Admin Kim asked Amy about sharing with other transportation groups but since we don't use it that much, Amy suggested she check with Dan Byer, who uses it the most; Amy will be meeting with the new Upton Senior Center Director to discuss possible sharing of transportation; Amy said the Friends' BJ's membership has been useful and cost friendly for bulk purchases. The remainder of her report will be interspersed throughout.

Betsy Edsall gave the Friends' report: the Friends had a very busy and fun filled December with lots of parties being well attended; at their Jan 9, 2023 meeting, the Board of Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in; the trip committee is working on three trips which will be

finalized soon; the Lunch Bunch is busy planning monthly trips to different restaurants; the speed monitoring signs have been installed and the Friends paid for half of one sign plus an increase in price of \$245; their next meeting is Monday Feb 13 at which they will celebrate Valentine's Day; on March 14 the senior center will host a St. Patrick's Day party and the Friends will sponsor Orchestra of One...green is the color of the day!; finally, 2023 membership dues are due now.

Dona Son, our liaison with Tri-Valley, attended their meeting on December 21, 2022; 764 bags of food were prepared for families in need; individual awards were given to Tri-Valley workers; it was a very cordial and friendly meeting.

#### Old Business

Food Pantry Update—Amy said things are going along smoothly; the first Friday of the month is in-person distribution by appointment; new volunteers are working out well, stocking, checking dates and filling orders when needed as the majority of clients still prefer to have their orders prepared for them.

Senior Center Addition—Amy has spoken with Town Admin Kim who said right now budget season is taking priority; however, she also said that although we are next on the list, it is probably 3-4 years out since Town Hall campus is ongoing now and the town is still paying for the Library and Police Station buildings.

Driver Safety Providence St entrance/exit—speed limit signs have been installed; many of us were surprised the speed limit is set at 40 mph and thought 35mph would be a safer limit; Amy said the signs are having some effect as the traffic seems to be somewhat slower.

Holiday Programs and Meals—all of the December events were well attended and enjoyed by all; 12/8 Mendon Minstrels concert and pot luck; 12/14 Ferrucci Family sponsored dinner which served 60 including off-sight deliveries; 12/22 Orchestra of One sponsored by the Friends and Tri-Valley Meal; 12/29 Friends' New Years luncheon coordinated by Diane Howell.

FY24 Budget—meeting with FinCom and Select Board on March 1 at 8pm; requesting same budget amounts as last year.

#### New Business

Nat'l Honor Society Project Requests—on January 17 at 2:30 pm Patrick Scott will present a technology program to answer attendees tech questions concerning their devices, which they will bring with them; Amy also received two last minute Nat'l Honor Society requests which she, unfortunately, had to decline due to our schedule already being set; Earl suggested a time table for projects be submitted to Nipmuc H.S. and BVT in an effort to avoid having to refuse requests in the future.

Goal & Events for 2023—we reviewed a tentative calendar listing of events and programs for 2023.

Friends' Funding Requests—we reviewed our 2023 funding requests for the Friends to vote on at their next meeting; Beautification, Fly the Flag, Entertainment, Program/Copier supplies, Director Discretionary Fund and Fitness Programs; the board thought the requests were reasonable based on last year's figures.

Staff/COA Board Training—Wednesday January 25 at 11am at Lowell's Restaurant; guest speaker will be Christine Bositis, retired HR person from Milford Regional Med Center.

Conflict of Interest/Ethics Training for 2023—Amy will email the link as soon as the town clerk makes it available.

Open Forum

Phil put together a list of 90 programs from the workshop he attended that we can use for ideas; he said we already do many of these.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Next meeting Feb 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary